

# Transportation and Infrastructure Appropriations Subcommittee

## FY 2008 Infrastructure Status and FY 2009 Recommendations

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### Frequently Asked Questions

Consistent, reliable telecommunications services supply a vital connection to Iowa's educational institutions, government, libraries, Homeland Security, and federal government offices, which receive services provided by Iowa Communications Network (ICN). Governor Culver has recommended appropriations of \$2,190,123 to replace aging equipment as well as to maintain the infrastructure required to provide customers with the services necessary to meet their missions. The Governor has also recommended \$2,320,000 for phase one of the three-phase Capitol Complex project to begin strengthening the redundancy of ICN services that are vital for continuity of government during a catastrophic event.

#### Q. Why is the ICN requesting funding to replace equipment?

- A. This minimum investment will ensure that basic requirements of ICN users are met and address two different funding issues affecting the Network:
1. Replacement of aging equipment, 'end of life' equipment, or to meet the network infrastructure requirements.
  2. Meet a state appropriation requirement for the state to receive Universal Service Fund (USF) dollars on behalf of Iowa's schools and libraries.

#### Q. What equipment should be replaced or added?



- A. There are two projects that the equipment will be used for:
1. *Capitol Complex Telephone System Equipment*— serving state agencies in the Des Moines Metro Area. The manufacturer no longer supports the equipment and the third-party refurbished replacement parts are becoming scarce. At this time, the ICN has not experienced large outages. (Fourth year of a six-year project, anticipate roughly four years on-Complex, two years off-Complex).
  2. *Internet Services Technology Equipment*— Many new video applications for education, and other government and medical services, are moving to Internet Protocol (IP) technology. Additional capabilities offered by the new equipment allows more simultaneous sessions and better quality Video over IP conferences than are currently supported.

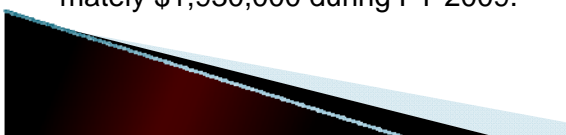
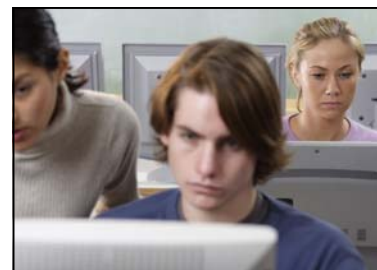
#### Q. What is the status of the FY 2008 Equipment Appropriation?

- A. The ICN received an appropriation of \$2,067,000, for fiscal year 2008 to replace and upgrade equipment that is reaching its end of functional life.

To date, \$1,174,694 of the appropriation has been expended. All of the subprojects are scheduled to be finished by the end of the fiscal year.

#### Q. Why is this appropriation a means to obtain USF funding?

- A. A state appropriation investment allows the State to receive USF monies on behalf of schools and libraries in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations. Historically, ICN appropriations, including the amount of appropriations to repay the Network's Certificates of Participation, have been identified as state support and were applied against the price of the video service provided to K-12 schools and libraries. This request is in keeping with this precedent which makes the State eligible for E-rate discounts of approximately \$1,930,000 during FY 2009.





**Q. What are the three phases of this Capitol Complex redundancy project?**

- A.** Considering the possibilities of a major storm, disaster or man-made incident occurring in Iowa, the ICN has identified three capitol complex infrastructure redundancy critical issues that will strengthen ICN service in time of disaster: Fiber redundancy, voice platform redundancy and a secondary entrance facility.

**Q. Why is the ICN looking at a three phase redundancy project now?**

- A.** As we have seen during recent disasters, the continuity of government and having reliable communications play such a vital part to recovery. The safety and protection of Iowans are imperative and must be maintained during a time of crisis. Services from the National Guard, Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security, Emergency Management and Department of Public Health depend on the ICN for unquestionably reliable and high quality communication services in order to serve and protect Iowans. Continuity of Operations and the Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) must be maintained so Iowa government can continue to operate efficiently and effectively in case of a natural or man-made disaster, without fear of communication loss. Vulnerability should not be tested in time of crisis.



The Governor has recommended an appropriation to fund the first phase of the project, creating redundancy for the Capitol Complex fiber path. Currently, the majority of the ICN fiber is located in the underground tunnel system and there is only a single entrance of the Network into each building. Also, the fiber is vulnerable because the Capitol Complex tunnels are open to the public and are collocated with steam and water pipes.

**Q. What solution is the ICN looking at to make sure that redundancy is available for the agencies on the Capitol Complex?**



- A.** The recommended solution is to use existing buried fiber and DAS ductwork along with new buried fiber to create a redundant fiber-optic ring while leaving the fiber, currently installed in the tunnel, for backup.

**Q. What are the costs associated with providing a redundant fiber path for Capitol Complex agencies?**

- A.** The estimated cost to connect the current fiber into a redundant ring is \$91,100 and it will take approximately six to nine months to complete. Power, backup, space and HVAC (heating and cooling) for the deployment of the redundant fiber ring and the dual entry into each building is estimated to cost \$508,590, for a total of \$599,590. Required optronics, equipment and labor will add \$1.13 million to the project, which equates to \$1.71 million. The pricing includes the equipment as well as the installation costs.

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